

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RYDEX INVESTMENTS LAUNCHES 10 NEW VARIABLE TRUST FUNDS

*Funds will add to alternatives available
to annuity insurers*

May 10, 2004 ... Rockville, MD... Rydex Investments today announced that it is launching 10 specialized variable trust funds designed to give investment advisors and investors greater flexibility in actively managing their asset allocations within variable annuities. The new offerings include six long style-box funds, two inverse style-box funds and leveraged and inverse Dow 30 funds. The funds will be immediately available within the Nationwide America's marketFLEXSM and Security Benefit AdvisorDesigns[®] annuity products.

Six of the new funds are benchmarked to S&P/Barra style boxes and includes Rydex Large-Cap Value, Rydex Large-Cap Growth, Rydex Mid-Cap Value, Rydex Mid-Cap Growth, Rydex Small-Cap Value and Rydex Small-Cap Growth Funds. In addition, Rydex Inverse Mid-Cap and Rydex Inverse Small-Cap seek to provide -100% of the daily performance of the S&P MidCap 400 index and the Russell 2000 index, respectively.

Rydex is also introducing two new leveraged funds that track the Dow 30 Index. Rydex Long Dynamic Dow 30 Fund is structured to provide 200% of the daily return of the Dow 30 Index while Rydex Inverse Dynamic Dow 30 Fund seeks to return -200% of the daily return of the index. The two new funds make it possible to actively manage exposure to the core industrial stocks that make up the Dow 30 Index and to potentially profit from both upward and downward movement in this popular index.

According to a March/April 2004 newsletter from the National Association of Variable Annuities (NAVA), a study conducted by VARDS Greenwald Strategy Service concluded that the premier struggle facing annuity insurers today is the effect that low interest rates and declines in equity valuations have on their balance sheets. "These new funds, as well as the other Rydex funds, create investment options that attempt to resolve many of the issues facing the variable annuity investor," states Jane Mancini, Rydex EVP sales and marketing. "The introduction of three new inverse funds can give these investors hedging options not found in most other annuity products."

About Rydex

Rydex Investments, the investment advisor to Rydex Funds, is a leader in developing specialized investments that are essential components of a modern portfolio. Through continuous innovation, Rydex anticipates the evolving needs of investors. Rydex is committed to helping investors and investment advisors maximize the value of our investing tools and strategies and to providing an outstanding level of customer service in our industry. Rydex is one of the nation's fastest growing mutual fund complexes, having attracted almost \$4 billion in 2003. Rydex manages \$12 billion in assets via 45 mutual funds, Rydex S&P Equal Weighted ETF and Rydex SPhinX Fundⁱ — a registered fund of hedge funds. For more information, please call 800.258.4332 or visit www.rydexfunds.com.

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Prospectuses for any Rydex fund, including the new funds' objectives, can be obtained at www.rydexfunds.com or by calling 800.258.4332. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of a Fund carefully before investing. The funds prospectus contains this and other information about the funds. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

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Rydex Variable Trust Funds are available only as underlying investment options in variable annuity contracts issued by life insurance companies. Variable Annuity values and investment returns will fluctuate based on the performance of the underlying portfolios. You may have a gain or loss when money is withdrawn. Withdrawals may be taxable and a 10% IRS penalty may apply to withdrawals taken before age 59 1/2. Other charges specific to the annuity contract may apply. Generally, variable annuities are considered to be long-term investment vehicles.

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There are no assurances that any Rydex Fund will achieve its strategy or objective. Investment in the Funds may be affected by risks that include those associated with sector concentration, international investing and/or the Funds' possible use of investment techniques such as leverage, derivatives and short sales of securities. Please see a Rydex Funds' prospectus for more information. Rydex Funds are distributed by Rydex Distributors, Inc.